

BUMED Oral History Interview Project
CAPT (ret.) Paul Douglas Barry, MC, USN

Date and Location of Interview: February 25, 2014, Telephonic.
Interviewer: Mr. André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

Captain Paul Barry was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. He attended Hamilton College in Clinton, NY where he majored in Pre-Med (Biology) before attending SUNY Medical College in Buffalo earning a Medical Degree in 1971. After graduation, he completed a surgical internship at Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, HI, before serving as a general medical practitioner/laboratory director at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Waianae, HI, 1972-1973. He would practice medicine in Agana, Guam and later in Eureka, CA, before pursuing a commission in the Navy in 1977. Barry's interest in hyperbaric medicine and undersea medicine led him to the Naval Undersea Medical Institute/Naval School of Diving and Salvage where he graduated in 1978. Over the next several years, Barry would serve as medical officer for submarine squadrons (SUBRON) 18 in Charleston, SC (1978-1979) and 14, in the Holy Loch, Scotland (1979-1981). Following a two-year Diving Physiology/Hyperbaric Medicine fellowship at Duke University (1981-1983), Barry would serve as the force medical officer for the Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (SUBLANT).

Following considerable pressure from the likes of future Surgeon General James Zimble, Barry pursued a Master's Degree in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, earning an MPH in 1987. This experience would pave the way for assignments as Head, Environmental Health Service, Naval Medical Command, Northwest Region (1987-1989); Director, Community Care, Naval Hospital Oakland, CA (1989-1990); and ultimately, Commanding Officer, Navy Environmental Health Center (1993-1996).

In 1990, CAPT Barry was selected as Commanding Officer of the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) on board the USNS *Mercy*. During the Gulf War, he helped ensure the safety and preparedness of over 1,200 medical personnel and crew members. Following the Gulf War, Barry served as Deputy Assistant Chief for Operational Medicine, BUMED (1991-1992), Medical Detailer, BUPERS (1992-1993), Force Surgeon, U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific (1996-1998), Director, Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine, BUMED (1998-1999), Joint Medical Officer, Joint Advanced Warfighting Program, Institute of Defense Analyses (1999-2001), and finally as Deputy Officer in Charge, Naval Healthcare Support Office, Jacksonville, FL.

CAPT Barry's awards include the U.S. Navy Achievement Medal (1981), U.S. Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2003), Meritorious Service Medal (1986, 1991, 1998), Defense

Meritorious Service Medal (2001) and the Legion of Merit (1992, 1996).

Key Acronyms

AIRLANT-Naval Air Forces Atlantic
BUMED-Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (U.S. Navy)
BUPERS-Bureau of Personnel (U.S. Navy)
CINCLANT-Commander in Chief US Atlantic Command
DAN-Divers Alert Network
FQHC-Federally Qualified Health Center
GEOCOM-Geographic Command
HSO- Healthcare Support Office
IDA-Institute for Defense Analyses
MARFORPAC-Marine Forces, Pacific
MC-Medical Corps
MSC-Medical Service Corps
NEHC-Navy Environmental Health Center
SUBLANT-Submarine Force Atlantic Fleet
SURFLANT-Surface Forces Atlantic
MARFORPAC-Marine Forces Pacific
TOW- Tube-launched, optically-tracked, wireless-guided (missiles)
UDT-Underwater Demolition Team
USUHS-Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Glossary

Adams, Clint, RADM, MC, USN-Adams spent 26 years in the Navy Medical Corps, retiring in 2001. From 2005 to 2013, he served as the Dean of the Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.

Anacostia River (pollution)- The Anacostia River flows 8.4 miles from Bladensburg, MD into the Potomac River in Washington, DC. The river has long been the dumping site of raw sewage and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs).

Brown, Bobby, MD-Baseball player/cardiologist. Brown played third base for the New York Yankees from 1946 to 1952 and in 1954. Brown later was later a practicing cardiologist. Brown returned to baseball in 1984, serving as the President of the American League from 1984 to 1994.

Buffalo Bisons (Baseball)-Originally founded in 1879 as a major league baseball club, the Buffalo Bisons were relegated permanently to the minor leagues in 1901. The team was disestablished in 1973 and reestablished in 1979. It is currently a triple-A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. During the 1960s, the Bisons played at the "War Memorial Stadium," aka "The Rockpile."

Buffalo Bisons (Hockey)-The Bisons were an American hockey

league franchise in operation from 1940 to 1970. The team was disbanded when Buffalo was awarded the expansion league Sabres franchise in 1970.

Bump, Stanley, RADM, USN— RADM Bump was a Naval Academy graduate (class of 1958) who served thirty years in the Navy, including tours as commander of SUBRON FOURTEEN.

California Angels—Major League Baseball team established in 1961 as the Los Angeles Angels. In their history they have been known as the L.A. Angels (1961-1965), California Angels (1966-1996), and Anaheim Angels (1997-2007) and the L.A. Angels of Anaheim (2008-Present).

Divers Alert Network (DAN)— Established in 1980, the Divers Alert Network (DAN) is the diving industry's largest association dedicated to scuba diving safety. Serving scuba divers for more than 30 years, DAN provides emergency assistance, medical information resources, educational opportunities and more. (source: www.diversnetwork.org)

East Carolina University— East Carolina University is a public, coeducational, doctoral/research university in Greenville, North Carolina.

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)— FQHCs are designed to serve an underserved area or population. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FQHCs must offer a "sliding fee scale, provide comprehensive services, have an ongoing quality assurance program, and have a governing board of directors." (source: www.hrsa.gov)

"Freddie's Doughnuts"—Buffalo institution from 1924 until its closure in 1989. It was named after its owner, Frederick Maier, a Ukrainian immigrant by way of Canada. For many years the doughnut shop was located on Main Street near Michigan Street.

Geographic Commands (GEOCOMS)—Geographical Commands (GEOCOMS). To address perceived inadequacies the Navy Medical Department reorganized on October 1st, 1982. Hospitals in the continental United States were divided into regions with the largest treatment center in the area hospital the geographical commander and staff. Hospital commanders in the region would report to the geographical commander who would report to the Commander of the Naval Medical Command (formerly the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery). The Geographical Command experiment ended in 1989.

Hamilton College—A private liberal arts college founded in Clinton, NY in 1793, CAPT Barry graduated Hamilton College with an AB in 1967.

Harvey, Claude, CAPT, MC, USN—a pioneering undersea medical officer and leader in the fields of hyperbaric medicine and undersea medical research.

Health Care Support Offices (HSO)— In 1989, the Navy established five Healthcare Support Offices (Jacksonville, FL, London, UK, Norfolk, VA, Pearl Harbor, HI, and San Diego, CA. The

HSOs were designed to provide technical assistance to hospitals and clinics in health care delivery, quality assurance, resource management, and logistics support

Hemiplegia—Complete paralysis of one side of the body that can be caused by traumas, strokes, tumors, etc.

Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA)—An American non-profit corporation that administers three federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs)—the Systems and Analyses Center (SAC), the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI), and the Center for Communications and Computing (C&C)—to assist the United States government in addressing national security issues. It is headquartered in Alexandria, VA. (source: www.ida.org)

Iran Airbus Disaster—On July 3, 1988, Iran Air Flight 655 (Airbus A300) was mistakenly shot down in Iranian airspace over the Persian Gulf by the U.S. guided missile cruiser USS *Vincennes*. Some 290 passengers were killed.

Kahuna—A Hawaiian term for a priest, sorcerer, healer or an expert craftsman. The term "Big Kahuna" has been used in surf and "beach party" movies in the 1950s and 1960s (e.g., "Gidget," "Beach Party Bingo," et al) to refer to the "top surfer."

Lavan, John "Doc"—Baseball player-turned Navy physician. From 1913 to 1924, "Doc" Lavan (1890-1952) played for the St. Louis Browns (later known as the Baltimore Orioles), St. Louis Cardinals, Washington Senators, and the Philadelphia Athletics where he served on the 1913 World Series team alongside Eddie Collins and Frank "Home Run" Baker. Lavan would use his winning World Series share of \$3,294 to pay off his medical school debts and earn his medical degree (in 1914). Following the 1917 season, Lavan applied for a commission in Navy Medical Corps. He would serve in the Medical Corps reserves through World War II.

Lichtman, David, RADM, MC, USN—RADM Lichtman served as the Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Oakland, and Commander, Northwest Medical Command from October 1989 to May 1991.

Loar, Charles, RADM, MSC, USN—RADM Loar served as the Assistant Chief of Operational Readiness, BUMED, and Navy Medical Service Corps Director from 1991 to 1993.

London Marathon—First established in 1981, the London Marathon takes place every April.

Marlor, Russell, RADM, MC, USN—RADM Marlor served as the Director, Medical Plans and Policy Division, Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0932) from June 1990 to 1991.

Naval Undersea Medical Institute/Naval School of Diving and Salvage. CAPT Barry graduated in 1978. All prospective undersea medical officers must go through this multiphase program to be qualified for certification. Phase one is six week program at the Naval Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI)

located on Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, Connecticut. Training during this introductory phase includes rigorous physical conditioning and a modified Submarine Officer's Basic course including training in Damage Control, Fire Fighting, and Submarine systems. Students will also receive lectures on the operational aspects of medicine, psychiatry, and dentistry. Physical Training is emphasized during this phase to prepare the student for dive school, and entails approximately two-three hours of swimming, running, calisthenics, finning, and water confidence training per day. The goal of the physical training is for the student to pass the diver Physical Readiness Test (PRT) and to prepare the student for Dive Medical Officer (DMO) training conducted at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC). Students must be able to pass the Diver PRT by the end of Phase One in order to continue on to Phase Two at NDSTC.

Phase two is nine weeks of diving training at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City, Florida. An emphasis on physical conditioning is continued with daily PT conducted by the dive school training team. Each candidate will be required to pass a Diver PRT at NDSTC prior to the initiation of training. The first two weeks incorporate basic and advanced SCUBA diving. The candidate will receive additional training in the closed circuit re-breathing systems use by the navy SEAL teams (oxygen based) and EOD Teams (mixed gas based). Training in the salvage communities' surface supplied (hard hat) diving equipment is also provided during this phase. Students receive hands-on experience in hyperbaric chamber operations as well as extensive training in the Navy Recompression tables and diving medicine.

Phase three begins after the successful completion of dive school and lasts for approximately eight weeks. Students will return to NUMI for additional training in Professional development, ACLS refresher training, and special topics in Naval Special Warfare Medicine, Tropical Medicine, and Clinical Hyperbaric Medicine. During phase three, UMOCs will receive extensive training in Radiation Health and health record administration. In addition, students are required to take and pass a comprehensive oral board encompassing all material presented in the course during all three phases of training. (source: "Undersea Medical Officer Candidate Course."

<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmotc/numi/>)

Queen's Medical Center, sometimes referred to as Queens Hospital was established in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV it is the largest non-profit hospital in Honolulu, HI. Remington Rand-Company that specialized in the manufacturing of

business machines such as typewriters and later mainframe computers. In 1952, a Remington Rand computer was used on national television to predict the results of the presidential election between Eisenhower and Stevenson in Buffalo, NY.

Scott, Hugh, RADM, MC, USN—A submarine medical officer.

Seaton, Lewis, VADM, MC, USN—Commanding Officer of the Naval Undersea Medical Institute (1977-1980) and later Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy (1983-1987).

Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion is the largest and heaviest helicopter in the United States military.

Smith, William Dee, ADM, USN—ADM Smith was a Naval Academy graduate (class of 1955) who rose to the rank of four-star admiral and military representative, NATO Military Committee in February 1991.

Smoking Ban on Submarines— Smoking aboard U.S Navy submarines was prohibited as of December 31, 2010.

The Bends—also known as "Decompression Sickness," the bends describes a condition arising from dissolved gases coming out of solution into bubbles inside the body on depressurization. Effects can vary from joint pain and rashes to paralysis and death.

University of Buffalo (SUNY at Buffalo)—was founded in 1846 as a private medical school. CAPT Barry earned his MD from the school in 1971.

Vann, Richard, CAPT, USN— Dr. Richard D. Vann earned a B.A. in 1964 and then a B.S. in 1965 at Columbia University. He then attended Duke University, where he graduated with a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering in 1976. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1971 and in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1972-1997. During his career in the military, he served in a variety of positions, including 1st Division Office on the USS *Annapolis* (AGMR-1), Class Leader of the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Class 51, Platoon Commander and Diving Department Head of Underwater Demolition Team 12, Commanding Officer of NR Research Command 6-6, Diving Officer of the NR UDT/SEAL 106 and then the NR Naval Special Warfare Task Group Bravo 206, Commanding Officer of NR Underwater Emergency Response Team 107 and then NR SEAL Team Four, Chief of Staff of NR Naval Special Warfare Group Two Det 106, and Commanding Officer of both NR Naval Special Warfare Group Two Det 106 and then NR Special Operations Command Atlantic 606. He retired from the Navy as a Captain in 1997. (Source: www.duke.edu).

Waianae, HI—To this day, Waianae is home to the native communities on Oahu as well as the largest homeless encampment in the country.

Zimble, James, VADM, MC, USN— VADM Zimble served as the Surgeon General of the Navy from 1987 to 1991.